

SB08-212: Colorado's Alignment Bill
 Co-convened Regional Meeting: **Ft Collins, CO**
February 12, 200
NOTES – RAW DATA – Question #3

Guiding Question #3– **Are there special considerations for the workforce or higher education in your region of the state?**

Responses:

• Language
• Socio-economic
• Transient population
• Social promotion
• Transportation
• Alternative education at all levels K-12
• Minority representation in workforce
• Difficulty in finding competent teachers [in] math
• Plethora of renewable energy
• Transportation
• Special education students and their needs
• Lack of education and employment opportunity in rural community
• Lack of vocational education training option in Weld County (look to Larimer County / Front Range programs)
• More hands-on training for SPED [special ed] students
• More business partnerships in Weld County (look to strong relationships in Larimer County)
• The focus on CSAP instead of life skills and employment skills (especially special ed students)
• More collaboration with Higher Ed and districts (especially special ed students)
• High competition for entry level jobs – lots of college kids in area.
• Focus on alternative energy – wind – fuel – solar
• Environmental awareness
• Urban – rural gap
• Water issues
• Entrepreneurial skills
• High levels of competition for highly-educated people (underemployment)
• Federal funding for research
• Senior services – homecare – healthcare – recreation (for retirees)
• Sufficient athletic prowess to beat Wyoming in all sports
• Seniors as volunteers pool
• Cooperation between P-12 and 13-20 institutions (PSD [Poudre School District] and CSU [Colorado State University])
• Arts and culture

• Town – gown issues
• International focus – students study abroad and faculty exchange
• Educational corridor from Boulder to Fort Collins to Greeley
• Very educated part of state – if don't attain the level, harder to get job. Even with high levels of preparation, competition creates more under-employment.
• High tech, very few blue collar jobs
• High importance of greater success in educating minority and 1 st generation to avoid gap between highly educated groups and minority communities.
• Electrical / mechanical mix
• Technical careers
• Value on "green"
• Energy – traditional and "new"
• Agricultural
• Ethnic diversity
• Less encouragement to trades / school to work
• Less visibility to careers paths
• Less opportunity to view / explore high wage jobs; high tech blue collar
• Teaching settings need to paint broader picture of variety of jobs/ careers available
• Diverse economies / settings – agriculture, mountain, urban
• Lots of research
• Energy focus
• Bilingual – primarily Hispanic – needed more
• Biotechnology – medical fields – lots here
• Green –wind power – solar
• Teacher preparation – secondary and postsecondary
• Financial aid for students
• Water issues
• Bottom end of funding for school districts
• J-curve
• Do not have same advocacy as metro / rural
• Funding formulas for schools – several universities
• Students not exposed to diversity
• Renewable energy
• Agricultural
• Environmental
• Transportation
• Connection to postsecondary options
• Attendance does not seem important in CO
• We import educators; we don't value education as a career

• Urban / metro districts dismiss / demean non-college bound students
• Kids don't see themselves in workforce
• Whether desk-bound or craftsman-bound in your job, college and high school should teach "soft" skills
• College is seen as path to high \$, not to complete personhood
• Lack of equity in resources / access
• Higher Ed corridor disrespects East and West of state
• Licensure in all four STEM areas
• High expectations for the student population
• Expense of higher education (college degree)
• Engaging career counseling / exploration of possibilities
• Broaden experiences – don't narrow them (track them)
• Transportation - Lack of
• Great place to live
• Minimal minority representation in postsecondary education
• Need to be prepared to help retrain people based upon job changes
• Lack of job availability / workforce
• Align programming with career opportunities in the area
• Technology
• Wellness – outdoor activities
• Weld County – oil and gas
• Strong emphasis on local control
• More university or college
• Importing of highly educated population
• Agricultural
• Rural
• Increase parent involvement – limited due to jobs (blue collar)
• Skill sets for environmental industries
• Affordable living for all workforce
• Fostering diversity – welcome to 'offbeat' people, non-conforming creative people
• Programs to retain educated workforce in-state
• More integration of the community – north-end and south-end
• Higher Education [should] meet needs of local industries, i.e., green energy
• Bandwidth
• Rural education issues
• Lack of teachers
• Lack of access to rigorous courses
• Distance
• Undocumented

• Agriculture industry
• Renewable energy
• Intelligence industry
• Embrace the diversity of the disabled workforce
• Significant area of access to higher education
• New industry; i.e., the energy field
• Increasing poverty (home grown)